

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2566

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2020

RE: S.B. No. 4

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 4
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII STATE
CONSTITUTION TO AMEND THE QUALIFYING AGE OF VOTERS FOR ANY
STATE OR LOCAL ELECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to propose a
constitutional amendment to lower the qualifying age of voters for
any state or local election to sixteen years of age.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from Common Cause Hawaii; Community Alliance on Prisons;
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; Moku o Manokalanipō, Kaua'i
Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; Moku o
Keawe'apana, Hawai'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic
Clubs; Ke One O Kākuhihewa, O'ahu Council of the Association of
Hawaiian Civic Clubs; Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club; and
seventeen individuals. Your Committee received testimony in
opposition to this measure from two individuals. Your Committee
received comments on this measure from the League of Women Voters.

Your Committee finds that only 52.7 percent of registered
voters, and only 32.6 percent of voters aged eighteen to twenty-
nine, cast ballots in Hawai'i during the 2018 general election.
Voting is a habit that can be established with a voter's first
election. Evidence from jurisdictions that have lowered the



voting age supports arguments that the age of sixteen is a better time to start the habit of voting than eighteen. Voting in one election can increase the probability that the person will vote in the next election by over fifty percent.

Your Committee further finds that early voting experiences are an important determinant of future voting behavior. Sixteen and seventeen-year-olds work and pay taxes, drive, and in some cases may be married, have children, or even be tried in adult courts. Your Committee further finds that extending voting rights to Hawai'i residents aged sixteen and seventeen, coupled with robust civic education at high school levels, will likely increase the civic engagement of young people and help instill a culture of voting leading to higher voter turnout among all demographics in the State.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 4 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



